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Don't worry Chuckie, I think he's the one
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Tommy, what's a "vity-man"?

Don't you dumb
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The vity-man makes sure
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got milk?



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Inside!

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A *Bug's Life* video game is an



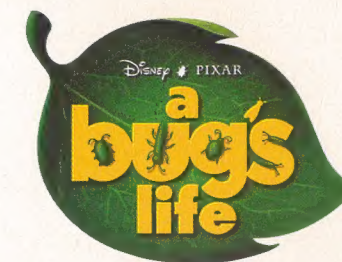
action-packed adventure that'll have

you swinging, flying and sliding in a world

seen through the eyes of an

ant. In other words, it's an

epic of miniature proportions.



www.playstation.com

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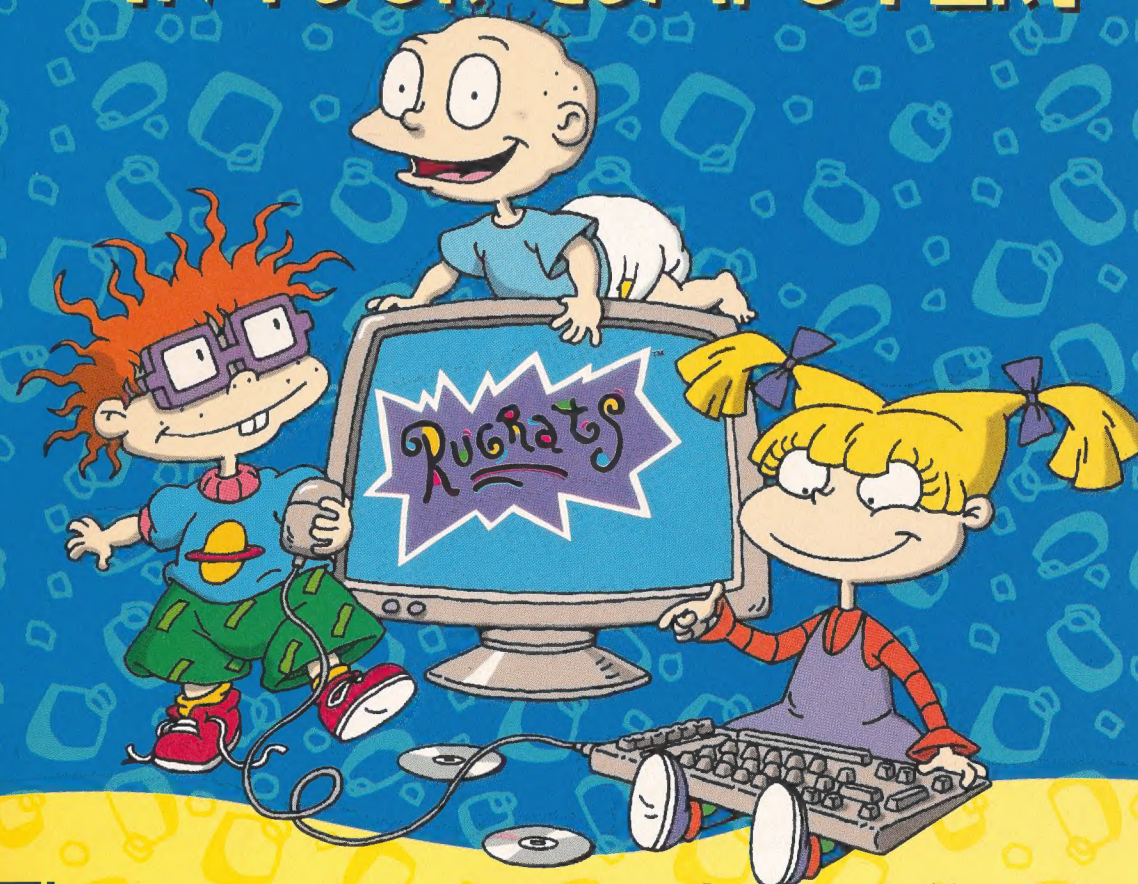
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A Cheesy Story

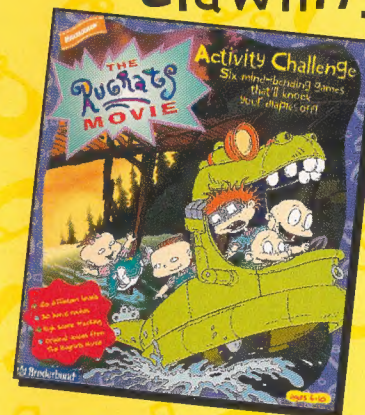


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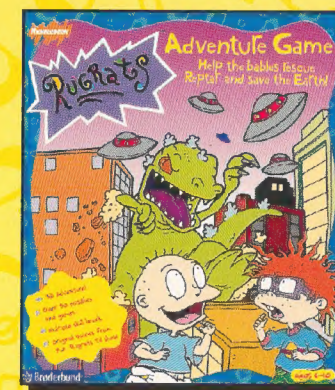
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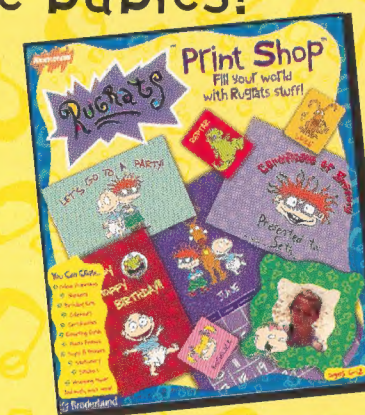
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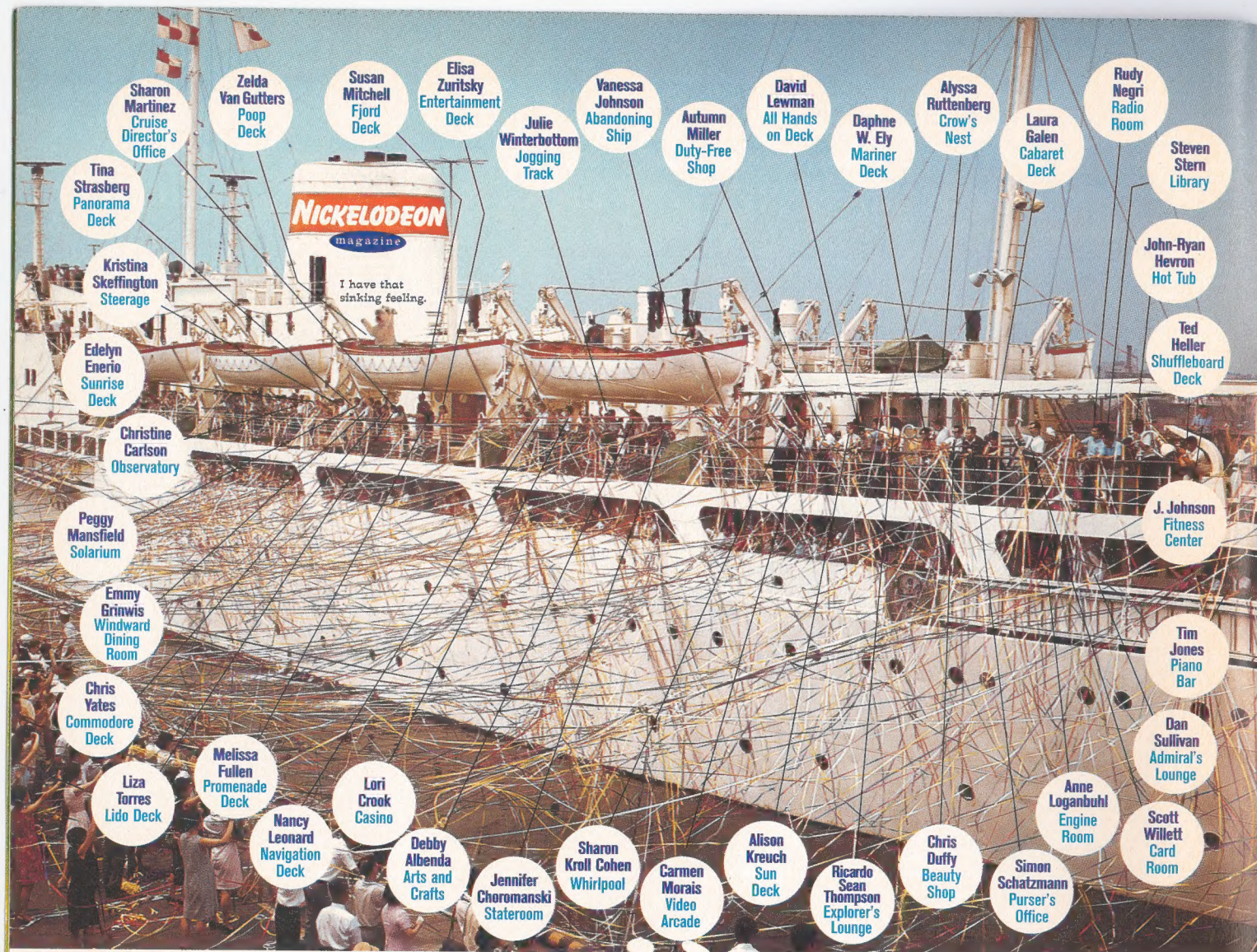
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NICKELODEON

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ATTENTION: When you see this  it means the story is TRUE.



In Dry Dock:
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Horvath

On the Bridge:
Herb
Scannell

On Excursion:
Kris
Bagwell

Contributing Writers: Cab Calloway, John Coltrane,
Tom Cruise, Brett Hull, Carmen Miranda,
John Wesley Shipp, Kate Starbird

Contributors: Andrew Brisman, Becky Burcham,
Bronwyn Carlton, Rory Evans, Robert Leighton,
Ruth Lindy, Erica Pass, Andrew Santella

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Letters to the Editors

Real

Dear Nick Mag,

Wow! You guys got through the September 1998 issue without mentioning otters!

Kayla C., age 11
Conifer, Colorado

Dear Kayla,

Yes, we were *otterly* obsessed for a while, but we've moved on to *otter* things. You won't find us *ottering* a word about those

cute critters anymore (unless you think we *otter*).

Dear Nick Mag,

I have been trying to get my mother and father to buy a new car, but they don't want to. Can you help me?

Patty R., age 11
Los Angeles, California

Dear Patty,

Try these quips in honor of

our Transportation Issue.

1. Tell your parents a new city law requires everybody to buy a brand-new air freshener (only available attached to new cars).
2. Mail a postcard to your home, announcing that your current car is being recalled due to serious uncoolness.
3. Turn up the volume whenever a TV game-show announcer says "A new car!"

Send your letters to:

Letters to the Editors
NICKELODEON MAGAZINE
1515 Broadway, 40th floor
New York, NY 10036

Please include your name, age, address, and phone number.

Or e-mail us at:
NickEditor@aol.com

Whatever We Want



All Aboard the Transportation Issue!

Welcome to our Transportation Issue. Join us on a journey by way of trains, planes, automobiles, and more. Don't miss our backpack and luggage stickers on page 15, or our paper airplane on page 33. Up, up, and away!



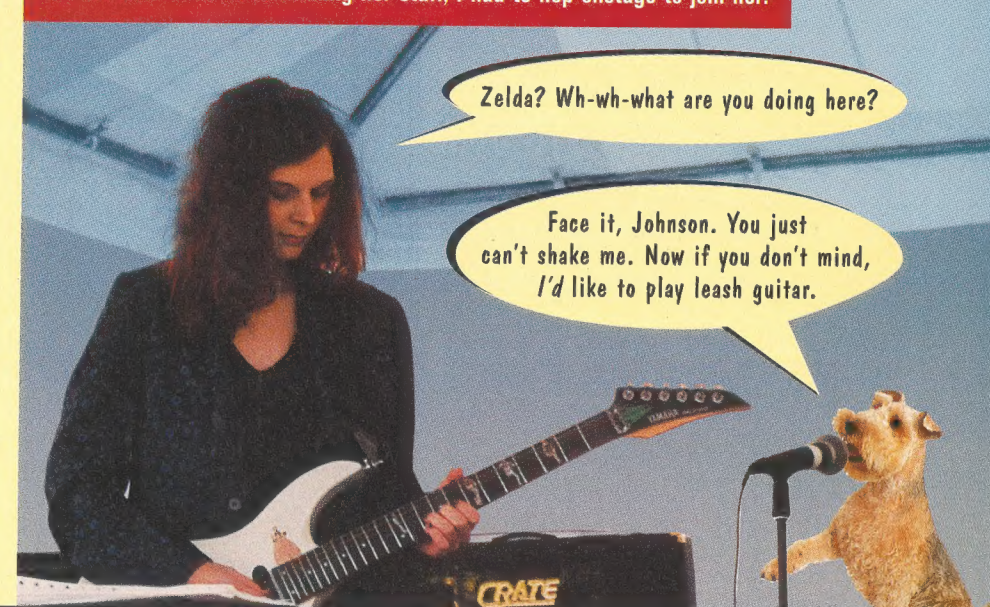
PACKIN' UP AND MOVIN' DOWN

By the time you read this, we'll have moved from the 41st floor to the 40th floor. Instead of sitting next to Nickelodeon Online, we'll be sharing space with Lite FM, a radio station that plays easy-listening music. We're excited about being able to see the sunset over the Hudson River—our new view faces west—but we're going to miss what we've been watching for the last three years: the revolving restaurant across the street.

Riffing It

Sadly, our Associate Art Director, Vanessa Johnson, is leaving NICKELODEON MAGAZINE. Vanessa has been designing "Ruffing It" for three years. She also plays guitar for a rock group called Crash Course—and look who popped in to jam with her at her most recent gig!

When I saw Vanessa strumming her stuff, I had to hop onstage to join her.



Zelda? Wh-wh-what are you doing here?

Face it, Johnson. You just can't shake me. Now if you don't mind, I'd like to play leash guitar.

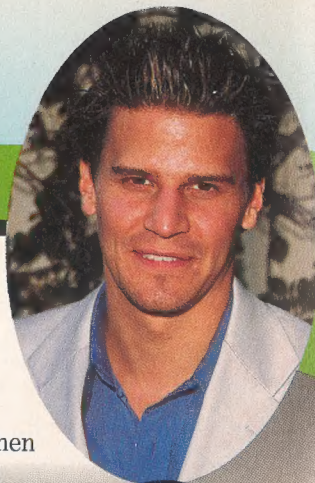
NICKELODEON MAGAZINE JANUARY/FEBRUARY 1999

NICKELODEON MAGAZINE JANUARY/FEBRUARY 1999

Big Wheels

We asked these stars some wheel-y tough questions.

Real



DAVID BOREANAZ
of *Buffy the Vampire Slayer*

Do you have any weird habits when you fly?
I always change my socks when I land. I hear it helps jet lag.



JENNIFER LOVE HEWITT
of *Party of Five* and *I Still Know What You Did Last Summer*

What's your favorite mode of transportation?
I love roller skating—not in-line skating, because I refuse to be hip like everyone else. I roller-skate around my neighborhood. The other day, I skated into a restaurant that doesn't allow roller skates, and I said, "Please let me in—it's the only mode of transportation I have!" And they did.



KATHY NAJIMY
of *Veronica's Closet* and *King of the Hill*

Do you like flying?
I actually jump out of airplanes. Skydiving is one of my favorite things to do.

Can you read while riding in a car?
No, but I can put on mascara.



JUSTIN COOPER
of *Liar Liar* and *Brother's Keeper*

Do you get carsick if you read in a car?
Nope.

What do you usually read on the road?
NICKELODEON MAGAZINE! During the school year, I also read books I have to write reports on.



CUBA GOODING JR.
of *Jerry Maguire* and *What Dreams May Come*

Who is the worst driver you know?
It would have to be a friend of mine named Pokey.

Is he a slowpoke?
No—he drives too fast. That's the problem.



JENA MALONE of *Stepmom*

Do you ever take public transportation?

Oh, yeah. I go to school in New York City, and it takes about an hour—by train and subway—to get there from where I live.

How do you pass the time on the train?

I actually get a lot of homework done, because it's nice and quiet.

What kind of music do you bring along for plane rides?

Lately I've been bringing *The Miseducation of Lauryn Hill*, the soundtrack from *The Full Monty*, or something by the Fugees.



RYAN STILES of *The Drew Carey Show*

What was your first car?

A 1970 Dodge Challenger. My brother worked in a paint shop, so my car was a different color every month.

When I read in the car, I get sick as a dog.



NICKELODEON MAGAZINE JANUARY/FEBRUARY 1999

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Rugrats

Wake up with the Rugrats!

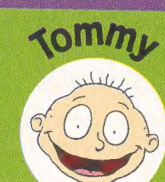


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Life in the Slow Lane

Here are some pretty strange things—from melted cheese to angry turkeys—that have brought big vehicles to a stop.

Real



Turkey Goes Postal

Thirteen homes on Loughlin Street in Albany, New York, didn't get their mail for three weeks last June. The local mail-delivery truck couldn't get through, thanks to one two-foot-tall wild turkey. Whenever the stray bird spotted the truck coming down the dead-end road, the gobbler would chase the big vehicle, pecking at its tires.

No one was sure why the bird hated mail so much. But since Postal Service officials didn't want the mail carrier to get hurt, they told him not to deliver the mail when the fowl was out.

The residents on the turkey's turf didn't want to get rid of their beaked neighbor, so they moved their mailboxes to the curb. The mail carrier could then safely deliver the mail without getting out of his truck—and the stray turkey could still run around on Loughlin Street.

Passenger 1B

Some Japan Airlines flight attendants were getting their plane ready for passengers last May when a big buzzing bee boarded instead. It was lean, mean, and definitely not carrying a ticket, so the attendants tried to catch it. They scrambled around seats and down aisles and swatted at the insect but still couldn't get it. Airport officials decided to cancel the flight—the first time ever because of a bee—and the plane was grounded.

Meanwhile, the hunters armed themselves with bug spray, and the chase continued. The crafty bee kept the attendants busy for another hour before the spray finally brought the stinger in for a landing.

It Plugged Up Traffic

In the stop-and-start traffic of New York City, one thing regularly brought cars, buses, and trucks to a stop in January 1997—a fire hydrant in the middle of the road. City officials were planning to widen the sidewalk at the corner of East Tremont Avenue and Boston Road in the springtime. But some eager workers moved the fireplug to its future location, which at the time was in the middle of the street—five feet, two inches from the curb.

For more than a month, surprised drivers slammed on their brakes when they came upon the hydrant wrapped in bright orange plastic. When city officials found out about the misplaced fireplug, they sent workers to move the hydrant back to its normal spot on the sidewalk, and the traffic stopped-and-started up again.

Catch of a Lifetime

Last May, Ketil Tetlie was on his 35-foot fishing boat, the *Ke-To*, off the coast of Norway when he caught a Norwegian navy submarine. The net on Ketil's boat somehow snagged the 500-ton sub named *Svenner* as it came to the ocean's surface, tying the two ships together. The *Ke-To* was pulled backwards by the submarine for a distance of 10 football fields, until the giant steel fish slipped away. Ketil had been out fishing for cod at the time, not naval ships, but he said the *Svenner* was still the largest catch he'd ever made.



He almost had a sub for dinner.



Spilling the Beans on Spills

High-Fat Highway

When commuters tried to travel on Interstate 74 near Cincinnati, Ohio, one morning last April, they found the road clogged with animal fat. A tanker truck had overturned and dumped 6,700 gallons of grease onto the highway. For three-and-a-half days, workers tried unsuccessfully to get the grease out of the pavement using sand, scrubbers, and high-pressure water hoses. Finally it dawned on someone to try Dawn dishwashing liquid, which is often used to

The Meltway

A highway in Wales, Great Britain, turned into a massive cheese fondue last October when a truck carrying 20 tons of cheese caught fire, oozing melted yellow gunk all over the roadway. The road was closed while police officers spent hours knee-deep in the gooey stuff, shoveling it off the road.

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JS048S1



Life in the Slow Lane

Here are some pretty strange things—from melted cheese to angry turkeys—that have brought big vehicles to a stop.

Real



Turkey Goes Postal

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Passenger 1B

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NO POSTAGE
NECESSARY
IF MAILED
IN THE
UNITED STATES

Lane

Catch of a Lifetime

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The Meltway

A highway in Wales, Great Britain, turned into a massive cheese fondue last October when a truck carrying 20 tons of cheese caught fire, oozing melted yellow gunk all over the roadway. The road was closed while police officers spent hours knee-deep in the gooey stuff, shoveling it off the road.

Loose Change Lane

Motorists travelling along the Capital Beltway outside Washington, D.C., in November 1995, resisted the temptation to make a quick buck when an armored car dumped loose change all over the roadway. The vehicle had flipped over, and about two dozen money bags fell out, depositing nickels and quarters all over the road. No one was hurt—but the highway was closed while workers did some coin collecting.



NICKELODEON MAGAZINE JANUARY/FEBRUARY 1999



A Model Job



As chief designer at Matchbox Toys, **Ken Hill** helps decide which cars and trucks will get made into Matchbox miniatures. **Becky**

Burcham asked Ken a very small number of questions.

NICKELODEON MAGAZINE: Did you love cars when you were a kid?

KEN HILL: Oh, yes. I used to take my Matchbox cars outside and play with them in the dirt. When I was a little older, I built my own version of soapbox derby cars.

How did you end up designing Matchbox cars?

I went to college to be an automobile designer—you know, the real thing. When I graduated, the car companies were going through a tough time and weren't hiring people. Eventually I ended up here at Matchbox.

Which Matchbox car was the hardest to create?

The '97 Corvette (right).

We were working on our model before the actual car had been introduced to the public, so it was a super top-secret project. The hard part was getting the styling exactly the way Chevrolet wanted it.

How do you make sure each model is accurate?

We get drawings and photographs from the car manufacturers. We take measurements of the tires or wheel base [the distance between a car's front and rear axles]—and use them to make a scaled-down model. When we finish our model, we send it to the manufacturer for their okay.



Matchbox Viper GTS Coupe
(shown actual size)

I can "test chase" this car.



Does anyone "test drive" Matchbox cars?

Yes. In the factory each car is put on a ramp that's about two feet tall. One at a time, each individual car is rolled down the ramp. If it doesn't go a certain distance, it's removed from the production line and destroyed.

If you could drive any Matchbox car, which one would it be?

The Viper GTS Coupe (above). I drive race cars, and I think the Viper would be a really fast, fun car to drive.

What kind of car do you drive in real life?

My everyday car is a Grand Prix, and my real "toy" cars are a 1972 Camaro Z28 and a 1991 GMC Syclone, which is a hot rod pickup. I also have a 1987 Nissan Maxima.

Would you ever go back to your original plan and design real cars?

No way. Toys are more fun. ☐



Matchbox Corvette
(shown actual size)

Matchbox Fact Box

Ken's All-Time Favorite Matchbox Car: '33 Ford Hot Rod (right)

Oldest Model Still Being

Made: The Shovel

Nose Tractor

(left), which has been in production since 1976

Highest Price Ever Paid: The Chevrolet Taxi with gray plastic wheels, which was auctioned for \$6,600 in 1998

Largest Collection: Collector Charlie Mack has 21,500 Matchbox vehicles at his museum in Durham, Connecticut.



SMUCKER'S PRESENTS

A BRIEF HISTORY OF PB&J

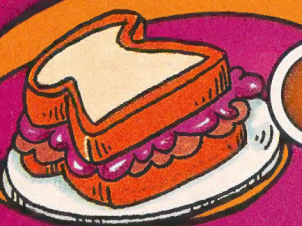


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FIRST PB & J. NOT EASY
TO CHEW. DOESN'T FIT IN
LUNCH BOX.



HOW ON EARTH
DID WE MANAGE
TO SURVIVE?!!

A BUNCH OF STUFF
HAPPENED HERE.
(IT'S CEREAL, O.K.?)



1947

ALIENS INVADE TO STEAL
PB & J SANDWICHES.
THEY LEAVE BECAUSE
THEY DON'T LIKE CRUSTS.
WHATEVER.



1998

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EAT PB & J THE WAY YOU WANT—
HOWEVER, WHENEVER.



1972

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YOU GET JELLY ON
YOUR FUNK-A-LICIOUS
BELL-BOTTOMS.

*GNIFTY?



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You know the many ways that people travel.
Here's how some unlikely objects get around.

SUPER-SIZE CALAMARI

In December 1997, fishermen in Wellington, New Zealand, found a dead giant squid in their deep-sea fishing nets. Because so little is known about the giant squid, the fishermen shipped it to the American Museum of Natural History in New York City to be studied. They froze the 25-foot-long, 200-pound carcass in a



massive block of ice and put it on a plane in a crate marked FRESH SEAFOOD. The squid had to change planes in Los Angeles, but it was bumped from the second flight and left sitting on the runway. Luckily, the mollusk got a space on another plane, riding with a cargo of flowers. When the icy invertebrate finally arrived at the museum, scientists busted open the crate. To their great relief, the giant squid (left) was still frozen solid.

PUT A TIGER IN YOUR TANK



It's unsafe to ride in the back of a pickup, unless you're a shark. Last summer, marine biologists transported eight tiger sharks, two at a time, in the back

of a pickup from Delaware Bay, Delaware, to their new home at the Aquarium of the Americas in New Orleans, Louisiana. Each fish rode in a white, fiberglass tank (above left). Scientists drove the 24-hour trek in shifts, stopping only to refuel and to put ice into the tanks to keep the sharks cool. When the truck reached the aquarium, biologists carried the finned passengers in stretchers (top) to their new tank home.

CAN SOMEONE SIGN FOR THIS?

The U.S. government didn't take any chances when it moved the Declaration of Independence from the Library of Congress in Washington, D.C., to the National Archives in 1952. On December 13, the helium-filled glass cases that hold the document were carefully loaded into wooden crates (right). During the eight-block journey to its new home at the Archives building, the Declaration was protected by a parade of soldiers, motorcycles, two light tanks, and a few military bands, while resting comfortably on a mattress in the back of an armored vehicle.



LUGGAGE OR BACKPACK STICKERS

Carefully tear out each sticker, lick the back, and attach to your luggage or backpack.

ANTARCTICA



ATTENTION BAGGAGE HANDLER:

This suitcase contains no diamonds, furs, or chocolate.



PROPERTY OF

your school

CORRECTIONAL FACILITY

WARNING:

Obnoxious Fumes—
Keep Back 25 Feet



SCOTLAND

It's not so

PLAID

after all.

CAUTION:
MOLDY UNDERWEAR
INSIDE!



Apply body part **A** to paper **B**. Turn to page 41 for more stickers.



Real

THE PLANE TRUTH

Passenger air travel got off the ground in the 1920s, but it took a lot longer for onboard toilets, barf bags, and in-flight movies to take off.

It's a bird, it's a plane, it's...gross



Passengers who could squeeze themselves into the tiny airplane bathrooms of the 1930s were rewarded with a view of the countryside—when they flushed. In these first airplane toilets (left), waste matter simply dropped out a hole onto the land below.

Unscheduled drops ended in the 1940s, when aircraft manufacturers started putting holding tanks, called honey pots, directly under the toilets. Today's airplane lavatories use vacuum action to suck waste into a tank of water mixed with blue disinfectant. Sometimes, if the seal to the tank on the outside of the plane is loose, sludge oozes out during the flight and freezes into large chunks of blue ice. When the plane descends, the ice falls off. In February 1998, a lump of lavatory ice plummeted into a shed in Ontario, Canada. No one was injured, but the ice left a basketball-size hole in the roof.



Chicken or barf?

Throw up and away

Although food wasn't served on planes in the early days of airlines, it wasn't unusual for passengers to lose their lunches. Pilots had to fly at low altitudes where there is a lot more turbulence. Lack of air conditioning and noise from propeller engines made things worse. Air sickness was so common that the plane crew often had to hose out the cabin after a flight. Cleaning a plane became easier when the...

Sickness bag
Spuckbeutel
Sac vomitoire
Sickness bag
Spuckbeutel
Sac vomitoire
Sickness bag
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Kid's name _____

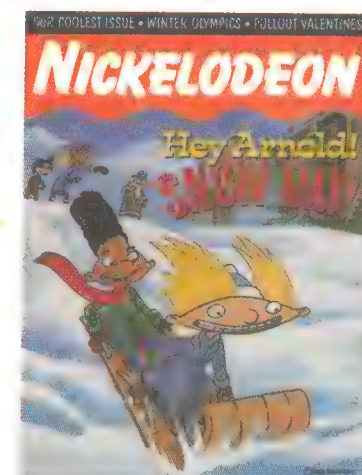
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JS048S2

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Real

THE PLANE TRUTH

Passenger air travel got off the ground in the 1920s, but it took a lot longer for onboard toilets, barf bags, and in-flight movies to take off.

It's a bird, it's a plane, it's...gross

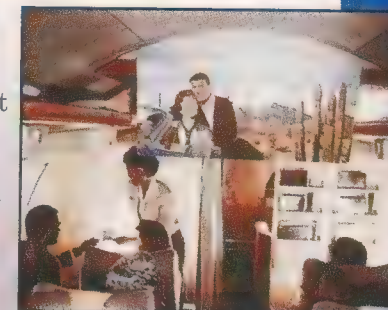


Passengers who could squeeze themselves into the tiny airplane bathrooms of the 1930s were rewarded with a view of the countryside—when they flushed. In these first airplane toilets (left), waste matter simply dropped out a hole onto the land below.

Unscheduled drops ended in the 1940s, when aircraft manufacturers started putting holding tanks, called honey pots, directly under the toilets. Today's airplane lavatories use vacuum action to suck waste into a tank of water mixed with blue disinfectant. Sometimes, if the seal to the tank on the outside of the plane is loose, sludge oozes out during the flight and freezes into large chunks of blue ice. When the plane descends, the ice falls off. In February 1998, a lump of lavatory ice plummeted into a shed in Ontario, Canada. No one was injured, but the ice left a basketball-size hole in the roof.

Flights, camera, action

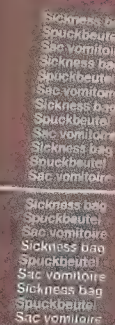
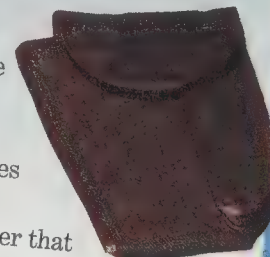
In the early years of flight, the ride was so noisy and bumpy that showing a movie onboard was next to impossible. It wasn't until 1961 that the first regularly scheduled in-flight film was presented on a TWA plane. Movies were shown on a single screen at the front of the aircraft (right), using a film projector in the ceiling. Three years later, American Airlines introduced Astrovision, a film-projection system that had screens every few rows and projectors overhead. A single reel of film snaked its way from projector to projector through grooves in the ceiling—which meant passengers in the back of the plane got to see how the movie ended before anyone else.



Chicken or barf?

Throw up and away

Although food wasn't served on planes in the early days of airlines, it wasn't unusual for passengers to lose their lunches. Pilots had to fly at low altitudes where there is a lot more turbulence. Lack of air conditioning and noise from propeller engines made things worse. Air sickness was so common that the plane crew often had to hose out the cabin after a flight. Cleaning a plane became easier when the first air-sickness containers were introduced in the late 1920s. American Airlines offered a black cardboard cylinder that looked like a thermos. United Airlines went for a softer look: a purse-like canvas sack that snapped shut at the top (above right). By the 1950s, most airlines had settled on the waterproof barf bag that is still in use today (top right).



NICKELODEON MAGAZINE JANUARY/FEBRUARY 1999



Luggage Nut



We packed off reporter **David Lewman** to find out what it's like to be a piece of airplane luggage. Dressed as a garment bag, he arrived at Burbank Airport, just outside Los Angeles, and shipped us this report.

Check, please!

As I check myself in at the Alaska Airlines counter, the agents tell me that every bag has to have a tag. "No problem," I say, pulling out my handy name tag.



Have you left yourself unattended at any time?

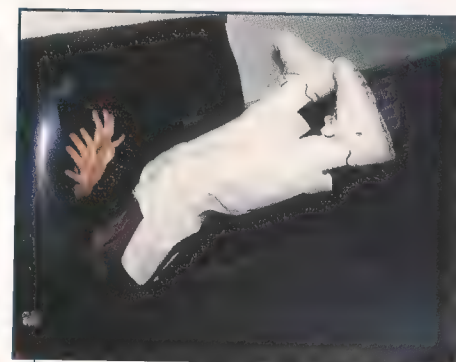
Weight a minute

Every piece of checked baggage has to be weighed. As luggage goes, I'm severely overweight—way over the 70-pound limit. The check-in crew slaps a bright-orange HEAVY sticker on me, so the other workers won't wrench their backs when they try to pick me up.



Can you handle it?

Fernando doesn't look very happy about lifting me onto the conveyor belt behind the ticket counter. But I can't wait—riding the conveyor belt should be fun!



Stop this crazy thing!

Help! It's dark in this tunnel! I feel a little like I'm going through a car wash—without the soap and water. Where does this thing lead?



Tag, you're it!

The tunnel takes me through the building and deposits me outside. A worker named Josue marks my destination on a list so that I'll end up in the right section of the right plane.

7

Do you get free peanuts in here?

Another conveyor belt takes me up into the plane's cargo hold. I'm the first one in, so it's roomy at the moment. They tell me it will get really cold once we're airborne. Of course it wouldn't be safe for me to ride in here. But we can always pretend, can't we? Let's say I flew to...um...Alaska!



8

No, that's not dandruff

BRRR! Alaska is so cold! I should have packed a hat and a scarf. Now I get to ride down the conveyor belt.



Wheeee!

Inside the airport, I ride to the baggage claim area in a plastic tub, since I'm a garment bag—and I'm fragile. Riding this conveyor belt is kind of like going down an escalator—without any steps.

10

Waiting around

I ride around on the baggage carousel, waiting for someone to claim me. Most of the other bags have gone home already. I ask a woman if she's looking for a maroon garment bag. She says, "Yes, but it doesn't have legs." □



Busy Being Brandy

Could **Brandy** be any busier? In the past year, the 19-year-old released her second album, *Never Say Never*, and appeared in her first film, *I Still Know What You Did Last Summer*, while starring on her own sitcom, *Moesha*. We're glad she added one more credit to her list: her first interview with **NICKELODEON MAGAZINE**.



NICKELODEON MAGAZINE: What made you want to become a performer?

BRANDY: I saw

Whitney Houston's "How Will I Know?" music video on TV when I was about nine, and I looked at my dad and said, "I want my hair like hers, I want my makeup like hers, and most of all, I want to sing like her." So my dad taught me how to sing, and my mom started taking me on auditions.

What were you like when you were ten?

I was the kind of student who carried all my books, all my pencils, and all my new stationery every day, even if I didn't need them. But I was a little brat sometimes, too. I was daring, and I used to play tricks on the neighbors. They thought I was so sneaky.

What kind of pranks did you play?

My aunt and uncle lived next door, and one time I snuck into their garage and pressed the button that opened and closed the garage door. When my uncle walked out to the garage to see if anyone was there, I hid so he couldn't see me. He thought he was going crazy. When he left, I opened the door again and ran to my house. I got a kick out of that.

..... **Real**



WE STILL KNOW WHO THEY ARE: (clockwise from top) Freddie Prinze Jr., Mekhi Phifer, Jennifer Love Hewitt, Brandy, and Matthew Settle.

What was your favorite subject in school?

Math. Everything else—science, social studies, history, English—came easier to me, but I enjoyed pushing myself to learn math.

Did you have to do chores as a kid?

Yes. I had to clean up all the time, but I've always been a neat freak.

What was your least favorite chore?

I hated the fact that I had to rinse the dishes before putting them in the dishwasher. I thought, "What's the point of having a dishwasher if you have to wash the dishes first?"

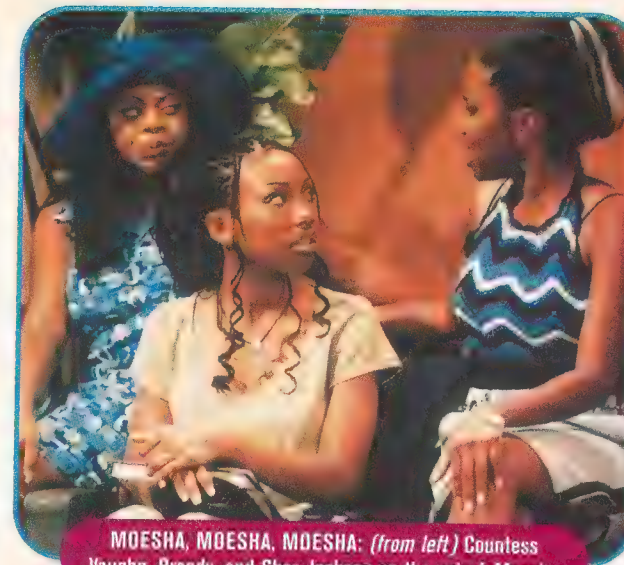
Which is more fun for you: singing or acting?

I like them both, but right now acting is my thing. After doing *I Still Know What You Did Last Summer* I just want to do another movie. But then again, I also want to tour.

Do you get nervous onstage?

I used to, but I don't get stage fright anymore. I'm more nervous around my peers, because they're really critical. They'll tell you the truth. People my mom's age say, "Oh, she's so sweet!" But kids let you know when you're not doing so well.

I still know what I did... all over the rug.



MOESHA, MOESHA, MOESHA: (from left) Countess Vaughn, Brandy, and Shar Jackson on the set of *Moesha*.

Do people assume you're just like your TV character, *Moesha*?

Yeah, everybody calls me *Moesha*. Everybody thinks I'm *Moesha*. But I'm not.

How are you different from her?

What I like about *Moesha* is that she has strong opinions. When she has her mind set on something, she's going to do it, whether anyone likes it or not. I tend to say, "Okay, what do *you* think? Should I do this, should I do that?" *Moesha* says, "Okay, I'm doing this, because I wanna do it."

I Still Know was a pretty scary film. Have you always been a horror movie fan?

I love horror movies. I love being scared. When I was younger, that's all my brother Ray J and I did—watch scary movies.

Did you have nightmares when you were filming the movie?

Not about the movie, but I had nightmares about the bugs and crabs that were all around our set. We were filming in Mexico during the rainy season, so all the bugs were out.

You're about to start working on a TV movie with *Diana Ross*. Are you looking forward to it?

I'm so excited, because I've always admired her. When I was reading the script, I was thinking, "How am I going to say this to *Diana Ross*?" I was the same way with Whitney [Houston] when we filmed *Cinderella*. People had to tell me to calm down. "Brandy, you're at work—you're not the fan."

Why did you want to play *Cinderella*?

I loved the cartoon version. My friends who lived across the street had the *Cinderella* video, and I would always go over there to watch it. If I knew when I was watching that I would one day be the first African-American *Cinderella*, I would have taken a different approach to watching the video. I just watched it because I loved the story. □

Brandy Bits

Favorite Movie: *Annie*
Favorite Horror Movie:

The Shining

First Concert Ever Attended:

Whitney Houston

Current Favorite Singers: Faith Evans, Jay-Z, Lauryn Hill, and Mariah Carey

Favorite Cartoon Growing Up: *Smurfs*

Favorite Mode of Transportation:

Planes, but she also likes tour buses



A CINDERELLA STORY: Brandy as the charmed princess in the 1997 TV movie.

CUTOUT PRANK

Cut out the fake newspaper clipping below and post it on a bulletin board at home or at school.

★ ★ ★ January 3, 1999 ★ ★ ★

Transcontinental Model Railroad Completed!

History made in miniature by hardworking hobbyists



THE HOBBY THAT CONQUERED A CONTINENT: Al Ficionado and Deborah Diesel shake hands over the first model railway to span North America.

LOCO, UTAH—After five years of spine- and eye-straining labor, the first transcontinental model railway was completed here today. To commemorate the event, rival model railroaders Al Ficionado and Deborah Diesel pushed a solid-gold pushpin into place, joining the carefully soldered miniature tracks together.

Said Mr. Ficionado, 15, of Palo Bajo, California, "I've always felt that America must someday have a 3.2-millimeter railway spanning her shores. Today is that day." Ms. Diesel, a 41-year-old hobbyist from Littleton, Massachusetts, agreed with Ficionado. "Like mighty iron chipmunks, little trains can now scoot across the country at speeds of up to three miles per hour, hurtling past scenic papier-mâché countryside," she said. "A journey that would have been impossible a year ago can now be made in a mere 936 hours! It's a dream come true."

The two modelers rubbed their eyes continually throughout the press conference, a testament to all the live-long days and nights spent working on the railroad. Mr. Ficionado's mother, Phyllis, commented later: "I must have called Al for dinner about 1,825 times—but you know how he gets when he's working on those trains of his!"

Continued on page B18

Continued from page A1

The effects of the railroad will be wide-ranging. "First of all," said social studies teacher Mr. Reilly of Branhurst Elementary in Akron, Ohio, "that thing's going to drive dogs and cats crazy!" On a more upbeat note, Mr. Reilly added, "As hobbyists connect their own railroads to the transcontinental line, they'll stop cluttering up their basements and attics—allowing for more storage space in all American homes."

One thing is certain: The American landscape is changed forever. Rumors abound that other forms of tiny transportation will soon follow suit. The Hot Wheelies and Matchblox companies, however, denied talk that they are jointly constructing a cross-country interstate, complete with loop-the-loops, glow-in-the-dark stickers, and a breakdown slot.

NICKELODEON
MAGAZINE



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1999



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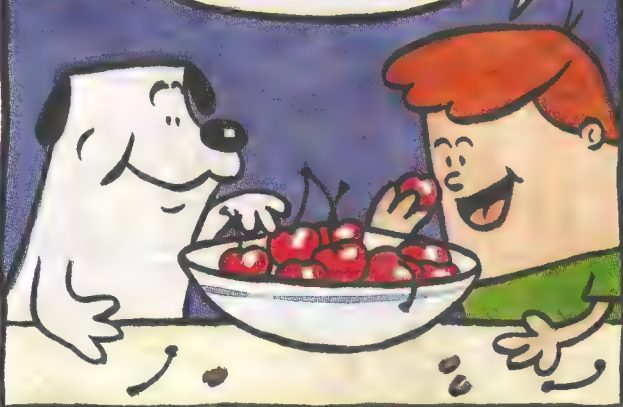
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CHERRY FUNNY

BY
JOHN
ACCURSO
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THESE CHERRIES SURE
ARE GOOD!



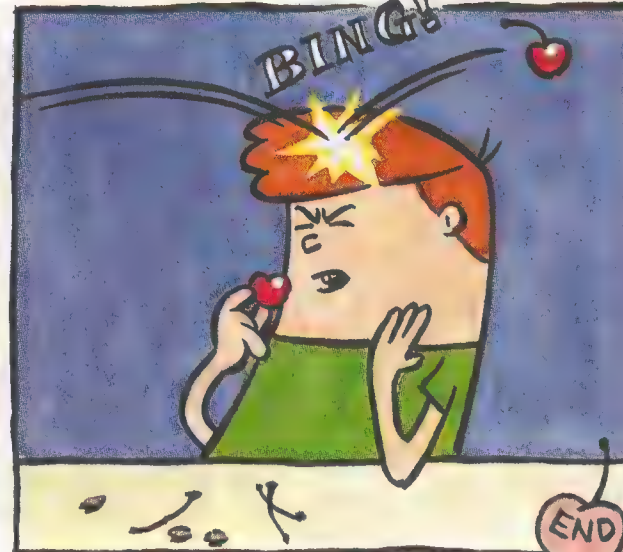
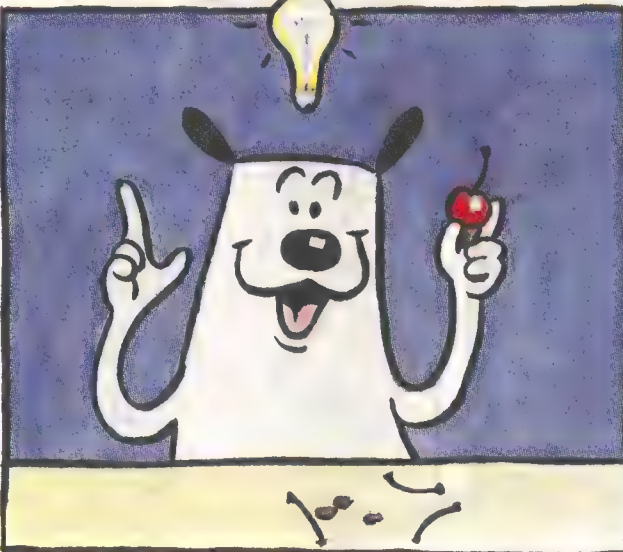
I WONDER WHY THEY'RE CALLED
"BING" CHERRIES.



THEY'RE NOT REALLY
"BING"-SHAPED...



...AND THEY'RE NOT REALLY
"BING"-COLORED.



END

Kablamm! presents HENRY AND JUNE

HEY, JUNE. HOW COME ALL THOSE PEOPLE ARE MOVING THEIR LIPS?
THEY'RE CALLED "READERS," HENRY.

THAT'S ONE OF THE DIFFERENCES BETWEEN KABLAM! THE TV SHOW AND KABLAM! THE COMIC STRIP.

WELL, THAT'S NOT THE ONLY DIFFERENCE, VIEWERS -- I MEAN, READERS! PREPARE TO MEET A WHOLE NEW HENRY AND JUNE.

LET'S FACE IT, JUNE. ON TV, IT'S ALWAYS "MAKE FUN OF HENRY! BEAT UP ON HENRY! DROP THE LARGE, HEAVY APPLIANCE ON HENRY." WELL, NO MAS!

SAY WHAT?

*SPANISH FOR: NO MORE!

BELCH
I THINK I LIKE THE NEW HENRY AND JUNE.
FLUSH THAT! LET'S GIVE IT ANOTHER GO.

WHOA! WHAT GIVES?

HENRY, LOOK -- MANICOTTI!

GRRK!

LIKE I SAID: IT'S A WHOLE NEW HENRY AND JUNE.

THANKS, DR. JUNE. YOUR EMERGENCY SPLENECTOMY SAVED MY LIFE.

DON'T THANK ME, BLAKE. IT'S WHAT I DO.

NOW IF ONLY THAT NURSE WITH THE STUPID GREEN HAIR WOULD FINISH CLEANING MY BEDPAN.

THIS IS THE KA-BOMB, HENROID. WHAT'S NEXT? ENOUGH OF THE DOG AND PONY SHOW, JUNE. IT'S HAMMERTIME!!

THAT ASTEROID IS HEADING RIGHT FOR NEW SOUTH WALES, HENRY!

WHOA! THAT ASTEROID NEARLY CLOBBERED US.

OOPS.

HUH. WELL, HOW DO YOU LIKE THAT?

IF WE DON'T STOP IT, AUSTRALIA WILL BE NOTHING BUT A BIG, SMOLDERING CRATER.

WHO KNEW THEY WERE SO BIG AND SCARY?

Y'KNOW, JUNE, THE NEW HENRY AND JUNE ARE GREAT AND ALL, BUT I MISS THE OLD US. YEAH. THE MANICOTTI WAS WAY TASTY, BUT WE NEED TO GET BACK TO OUR ROOTS.

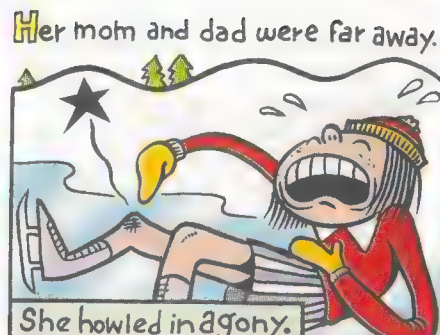
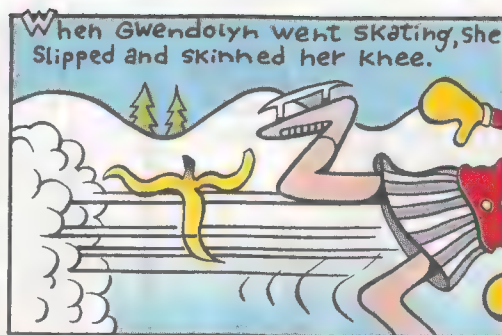
EXACTLY! AS LONG AS I DON'T --

GET SQUISHED BY A LARGE, HEAVY APPLIANCE.

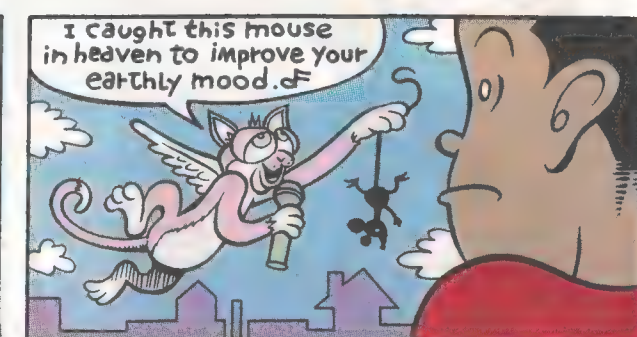
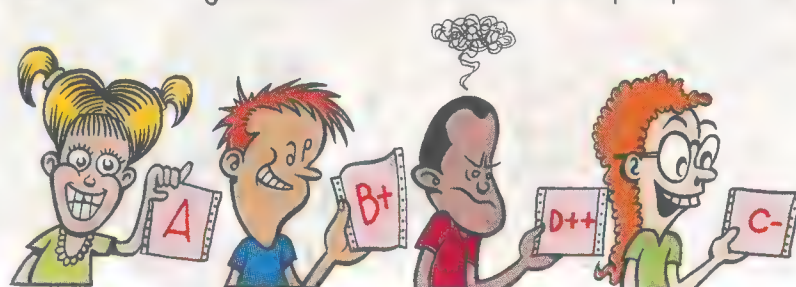
DON'T MOVE. I THINK IT'S YOUR SPLEEN.

FLUFFY PIE, the Angel Kitty

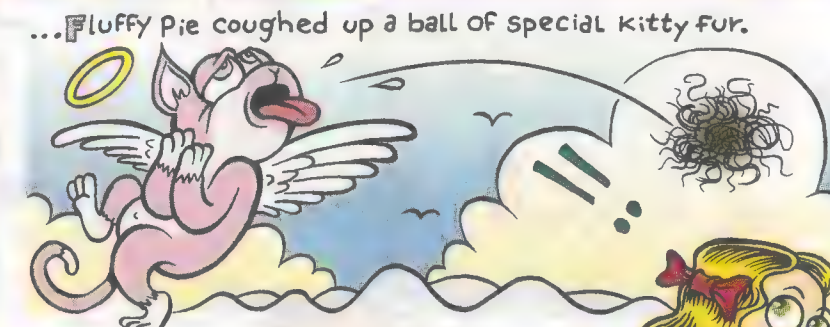
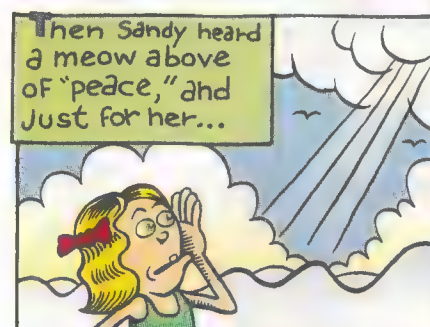
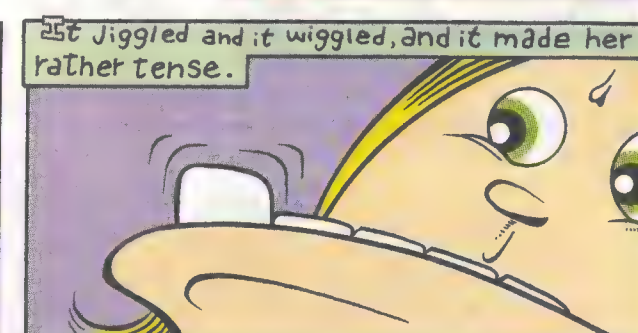
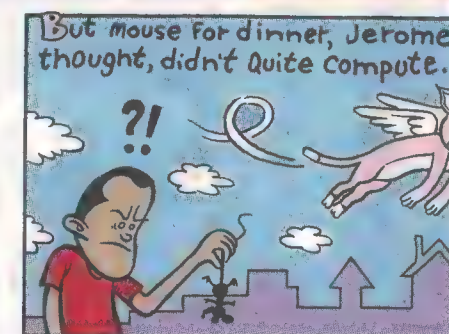
By Caleb Crain
and Pat Moriarty



Jerome was glum when he received a D-plus-plus in math.



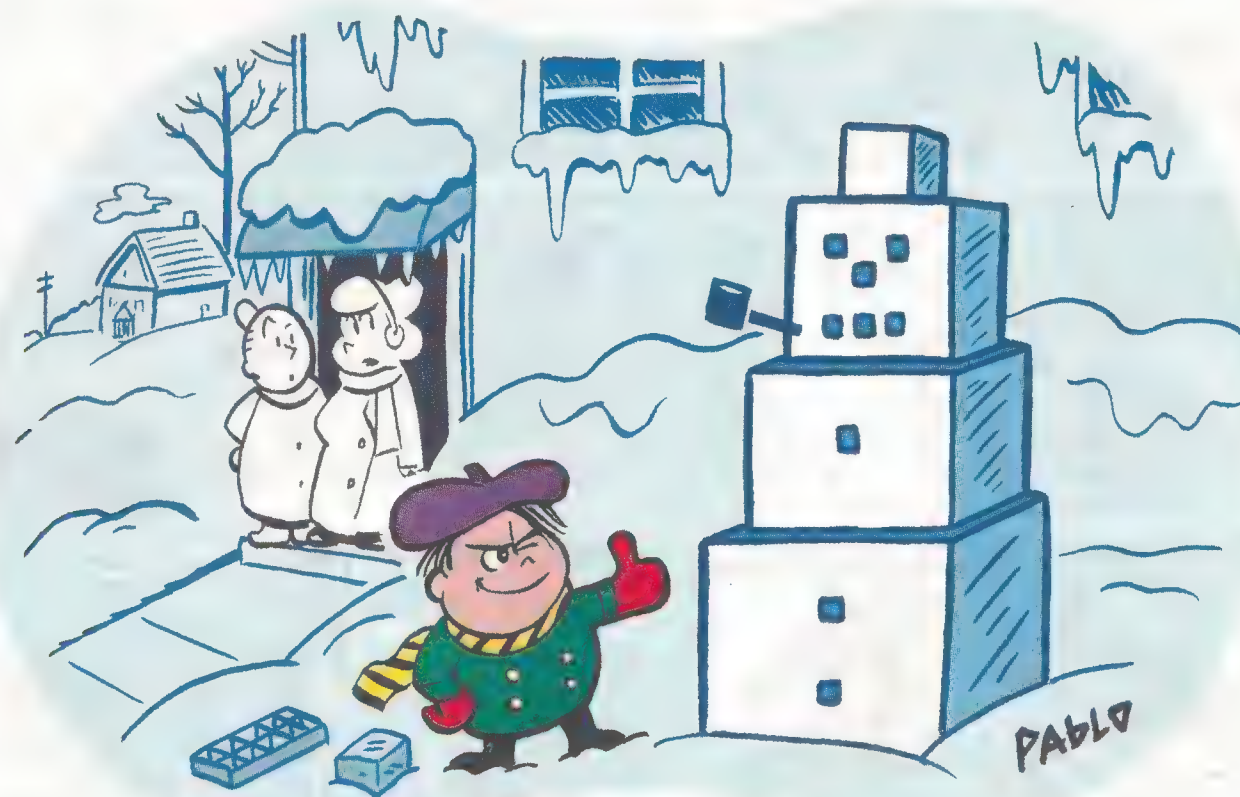
With downy fur and winking eyes, Fluffy Pie was cute.



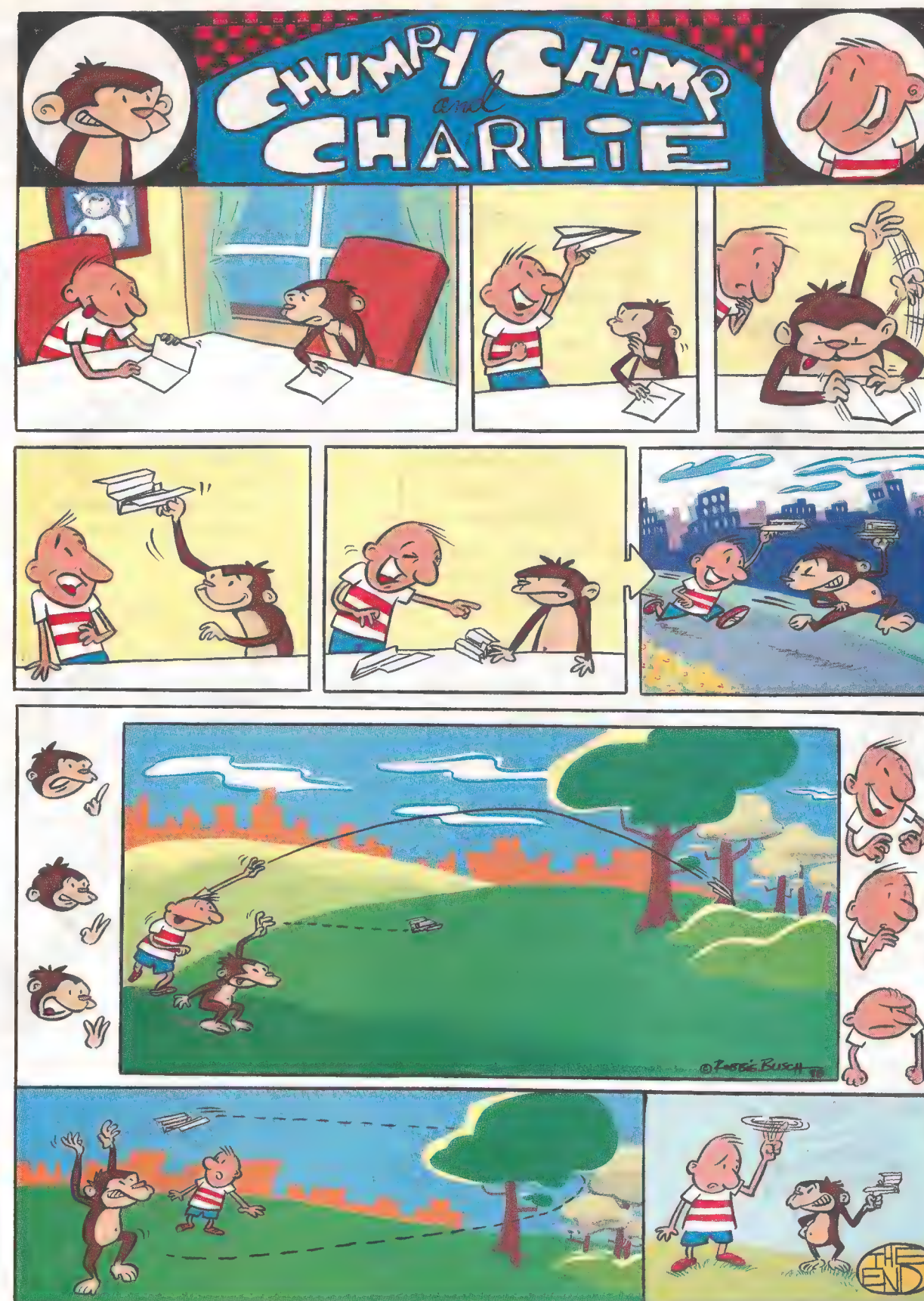
Fluffy smiled, and flew home.



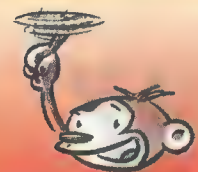
"I can't find my doll ANYPLACE!"



"THEY'RE DOING CUBISM IN ART CLASS THIS WEEK."



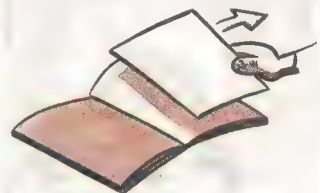
HOW DID CHUMPY CHIMP MAKE HIS ROUND-TRIP PAPER AIRPLANE?
DON'T BE A CHUMP—TURN THE PAGE! →



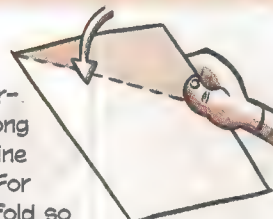
How to Make Real Chumpy Chimp's Round-Trip Airplane

by Robbie Busch

- 1 Carefully remove the next page.



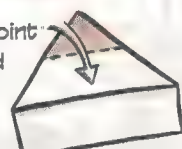
- 2 Fold the top right corner down along the dotted line marked 2. (For every step, fold so that the dotted line ends up on the inside of the crease.)



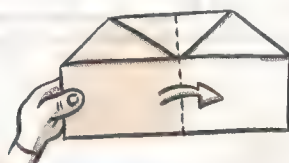
- 3 Fold from the top left point down along dotted line 3.



- 4 Fold the top point down along dotted line 4 so that it just touches the edges that you've folded into the middle.



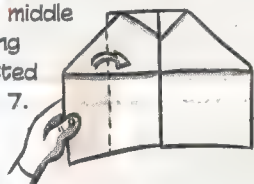
- 5 Fold along dotted line 5 in the middle of the paper. Use a ruler to crease this fold heavily.



- 6 Look for dotted line 6 and fold there to make the left wing.



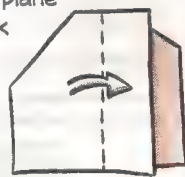
- 7 Fold the left wing toward the middle along dotted line 7.



- 8 Along the section that you just folded, fold back again along dotted line 8.



- 9 Turn the plane over and look for dotted line 9. Fold there to make the right wing.



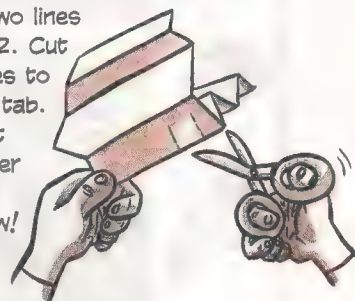
- 10 Fold the right wing along dotted line 10.



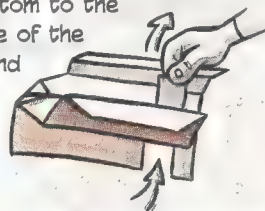
- 11 Fold the section you just folded back along dotted line 11. Put the folded plane on a flat surface and press down hard on the group of folds at the plane's front. Then let the plane unfurl.



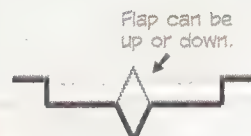
- 12 Turn the plane over and look for the two lines marked 12. Cut these lines to create a tab. Don't cut any farther than the lines show!



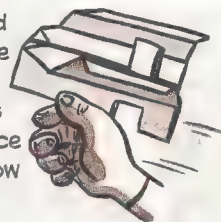
- 13 Push the tab through from the bottom to the top side of the plane and crease it at the top.



- 14 Adjust the wings so that your plane looks like this from the front. Keep the flap up for a long round trip or push it down for short spins.



- 15 Hold the plane near Charlie's dizzy face and throw gently.



Hints:

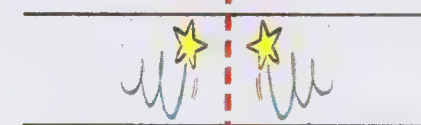
1. You must make folds exactly along the dotted lines.
2. Heavily crease each fold as you go.
3. If your plane looks lopsided or uneven, it's okay to open it up and refold it.
4. Fly your plane outside or in a big open room, such as a gym. Lots of space is the key to a good round-trip flight. Remember, do not throw the plane hard. It may take a few tries to get it right.
5. Press down on the front folds of the plane (step 11) between flights.

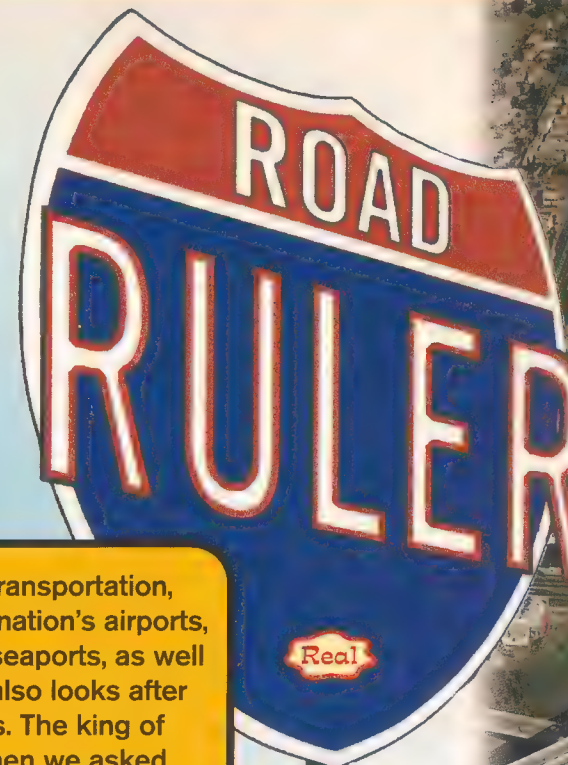
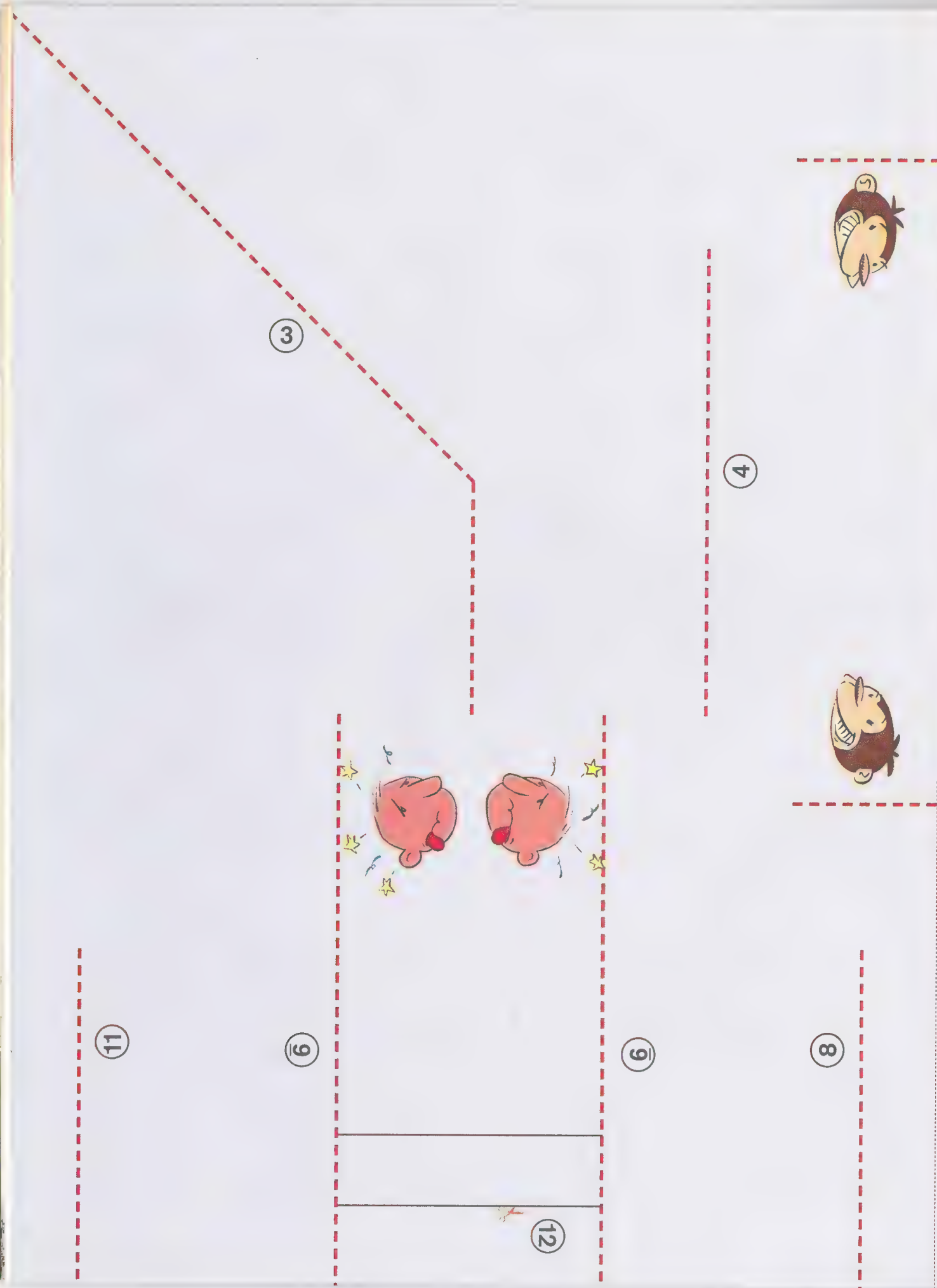
2

7

5

10





As the U.S. Secretary of Transportation, **Rodney Slater** oversees the nation's airports, railroads, mass transit, and seaports, as well as plain old highways. He also looks after safety issues for travelers. The king of the road didn't swerve when we asked him these questions.

NICKELODEON MAGAZINE:
How do you get to work every day?

RODNEY SLATER: I actually have a driver, for security reasons. My wife teases me about this. But before I became Secretary of Transportation, I rode the Metro [the subway system in Washington, D.C.] to work.

Do you prefer planes, trains, or automobiles?

I like all modes of transportation, but I guess what I love the most is trains.

Is there an event in transportation history you wish you could have been present for?

The Wright brothers' flight. That would have been great.

Do you take many family trips?

Oh yeah! The most recent trip we took was fantastic: We went to see Senator John Glenn's space shuttle launch. It's probably the only thing in our lifetime that comes close to the wonder of the Wright brothers' flight.

What's your most memorable transportation story?

When I was a kid, we lived right on a highway. My little sisters and I would sit on our front porch and watch the cars go by, and play this game: "The next car is your car." My sisters always got the Mustangs and cars like that. But whenever I'd say, "The next car is mine," an old beat-up truck or car would always come by! That's my most memorable story, because while we were sitting there, our minds were traveling with those cars. Our minds were in Chicago, Detroit, Memphis, St. Louis, New Orleans—you name it, and we were there. That's really the magic of transportation. □

TRAIN OF THOUGHT

Hometown: Marianna, Arkansas

Favorite Book as a Kid: *The Little Engine That Could*

Car He Drives: Jeep Cherokee

What He Listens To on Family Car Rides: His five-year-old daughter Bridgette's sing-along tapes

NICKELODEON MAGAZINE JANUARY/FEBRUARY 1999



Come Face-To-Face With True Adventure!

Route or Wrong?

by Tom Mitchell

Ms. Clutch, the school bus driver, must get her students to Crossroads Elementary while obeying the school bus rules, avoiding traffic problems, and following special instructions from parents. Help her figure out her route. There is only one possible way to do it. **Answer on page 54.**

Hint: Read all of the clues at right. Then use a pencil with an eraser to trace the route below and write where each student sits on the bus.

School Bus Rules

1. Obey all traffic laws.
2. Students must sit in the numbered seats in the order they get on the bus.
3. To save on gas, the bus may not travel more than once down the same block.
4. Students who live within one block of the school can't ride the bus.
5. The bus must pick up kids at their driveways.

Traffic Report:

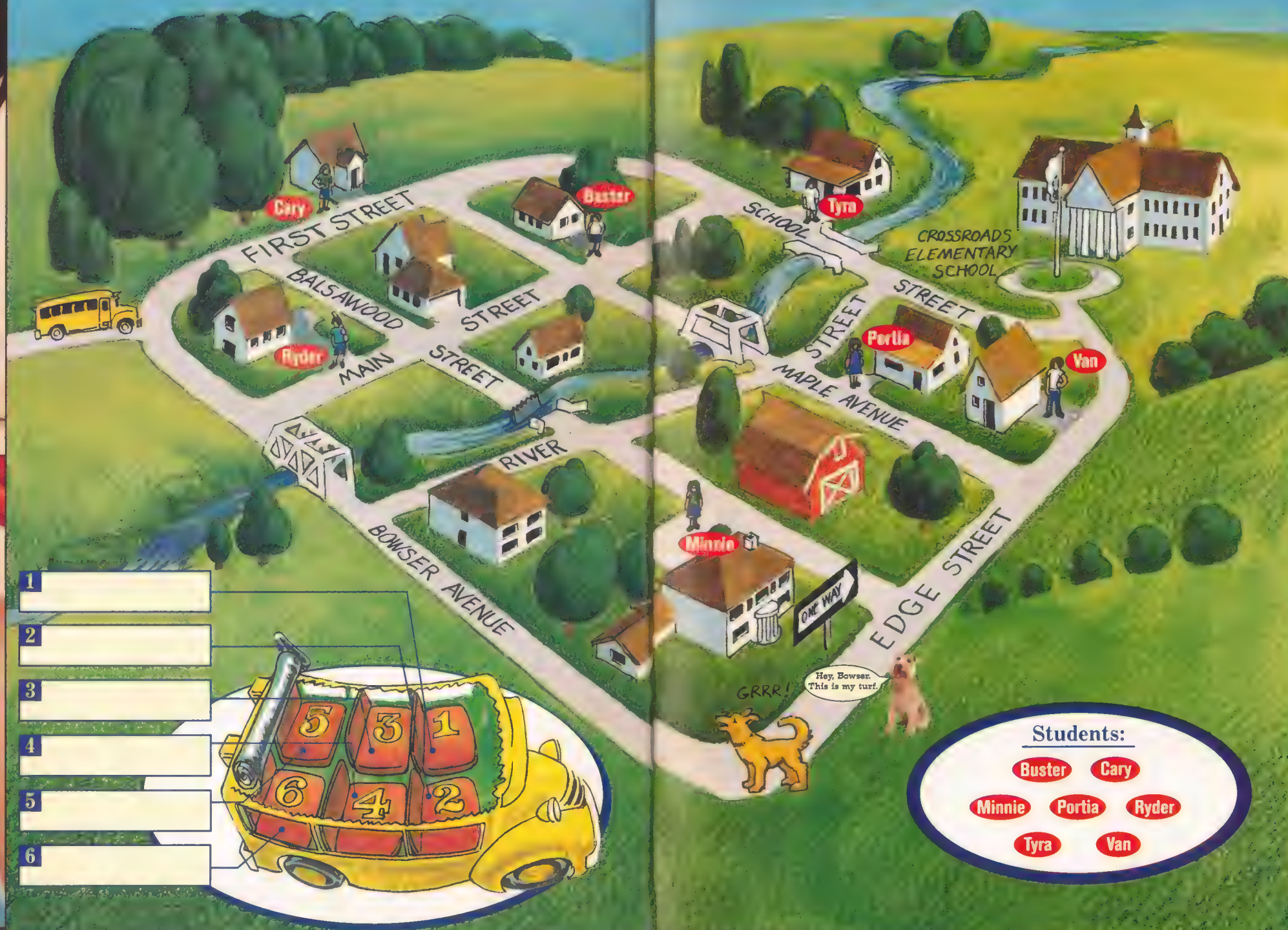
- * The Balsawood Street Bridge has collapsed.
- * A mean dog is blocking the corner of Bowser and Edge, so don't drive through that intersection.

Special Instructions:

Please pick up Tyra last.

She always oversleeps.

Signed,
her Parents



Students:

Buster Cary
Minnie Portia Ryder
Tyra Van

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Out-of-Control Panel

Ever wonder what all those levers and knobs in a plane's cockpit are for? Here's a guide.

Meal Meter

- Chicken
- Beef
- Unidentifiable

Flight Delay Controls

- On Time
- 1-Hour Delay
- 4-Hour Delay
- Let's Call the Whole Thing Off

Flight Attendant Attitude

- Really Nice
- Pleasant Enough
- A Bit Snippy
- Bully

Food Temperature

- Hot and Crusty
- Lukewarm
- Still Frozen

Entertainment Lever

- Bad Movie
- Good Movie
- Movie They've Seen Dozens of Times

Fly the
furry skies.

Climate Control

- Unbearably Cold
- Stiflingly Hot

Engine Noise Level

- Annoying Rattle
- Deafening Roar

Pilot's Speaking Voice

- Nasal Twang
- Deep Bass
- Southern Drawl
- Ex-Marine

Air Pocket Bounce-o-Meter

- Smooth
- Bumpy
- Roller Coaster

Right-Side Window Views

- New York City
- London
- Lake Superior
- Tierra del Fuego
- Seagull
- Clouds
- Space Shuttle

Left-Side Window Views

- Grand Canyon
- Paris
- Mississippi River
- Niagara Falls
- UFO
- Clouds
- Smog

Ear Pop-o-Tronic Toggle Switch

- On
- Off

Turbulence

- None
- Mild
- Strong
- Barf Bag City

Luggage

- Lose ALL Luggage
- Lose Luggage of All Window-Seat Passengers
- Lose Luggage of Passengers in Rows #1-100, Seats A-Z
- Reroute Luggage to Vladivostok

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Matchmaker

Each piece of chocolate in this collection has a nearly identical twin, except for one.
Can you find the one chocolate that has no match?

Apply body part **A** to paper **B**.  Turn to page 15
for more stickers.



Answer on page 54.

Candy is dandy,
but I like to nibble
on kibble.



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Can you find the one chocolate that has no match?



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CITY, STATE, ZIP _____

KID'S BIRTH DATE ____/____/____

PARENT'S SIGNATURE _____



JS48NM

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Apply body part **A**



to paper **B**



Turn to page 15
for more stickers.

Answer on

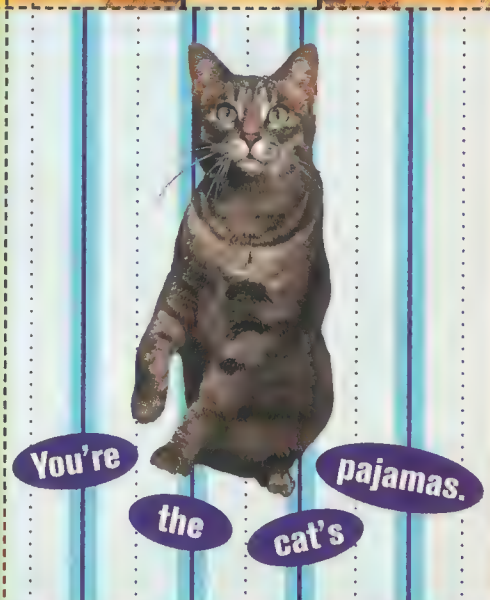
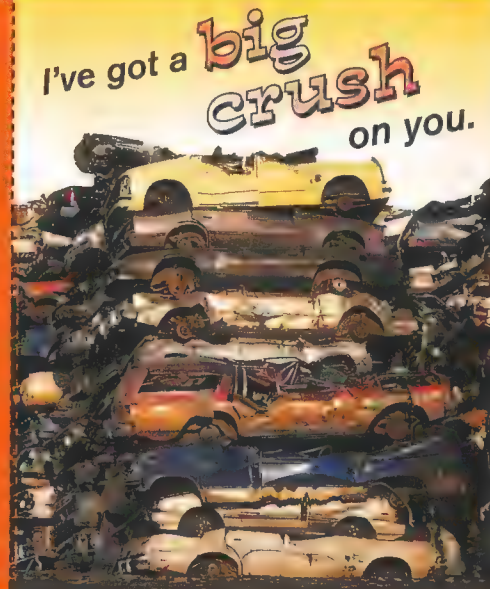


VALENTINE STICKERS

Carefully tear out each sticker, lick the back, and attach to a card or envelope.



It's not just puppy love.



PESKY PASSENGER

Are you running out of things to say that will annoy your parents when you're traveling with them? Here are a few new phrases that could make a trip truly memorable.



A few things NOT to say in a car:

- Wow, isn't that one of *our* tires spinning down the road?
- I'm not going to ask "Are we there yet?" My question is: Are we in fact *anywhere*?
- When the needle sinks below the E, what does that mean exactly?
- I think the dog sat on a chocolate bar.

A few things NOT to say on a plane:

- Wow! Lightning looks really cool so close up!
- We don't *really* need both wings, do we?
- Hey, what does this button do? Aaaarrrrggggghhh!
- Uh-oh, I knew I shouldn't have eaten all those beans before we boarded.

A few things NOT to say on a boat:

- Aaaarrrrggggghhh! The edge! We're going over the edge!
- Why is the captain counting the lifeboats?
- This may sound crazy but...that can't be an iceberg, can it?
- That boat behind us has such a weird flag. What country has a skull and crossbones for a flag?

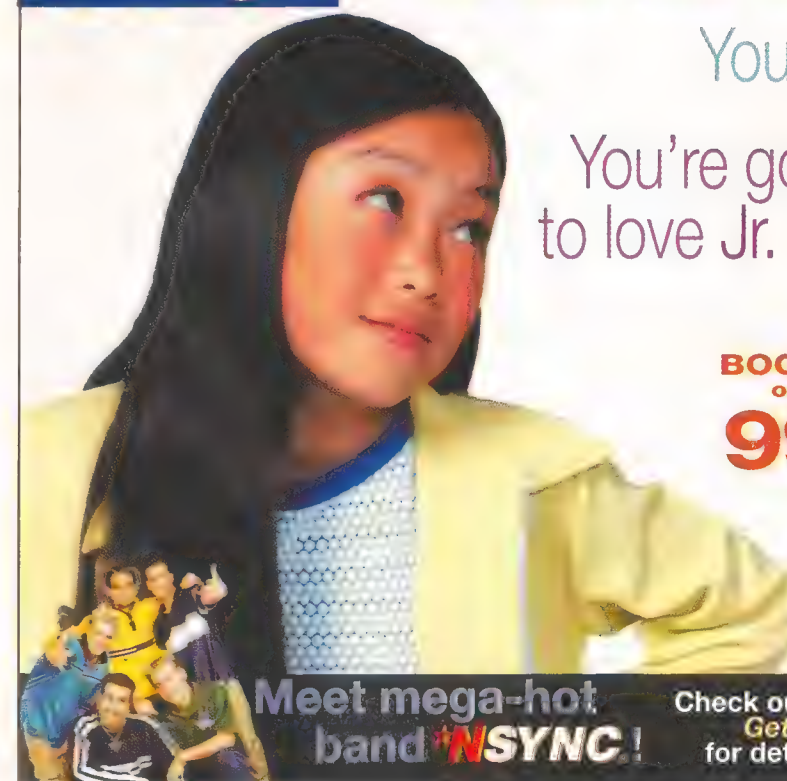


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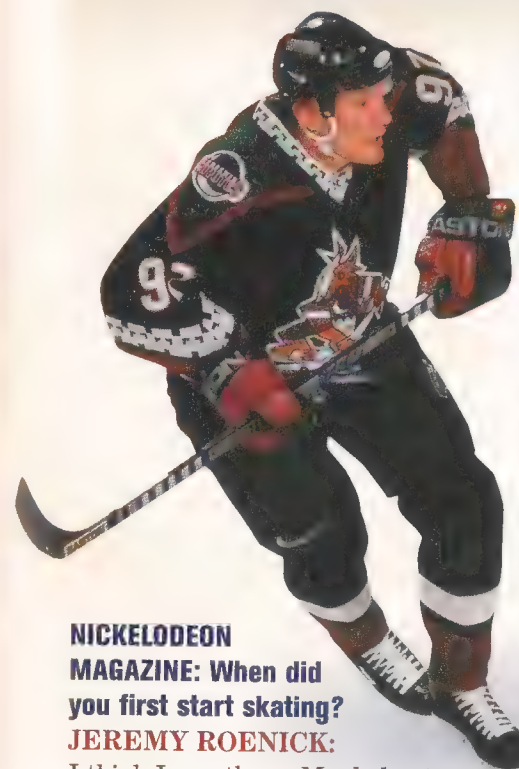
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J a n u a r y

| Sunday | Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursday | Friday | Saturday |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <p>3</p>  <p>Construction begins on the Brooklyn Bridge, 1870. That's water under the bridge by now.</p> | <p>4</p>  | <p>5</p> <p>Alvin Ailey, dancer and choreographer, born, 1931. When did he take his first steps?</p> | <p>6</p> <p>Nancy Lopez, golfer, born, 1957. She liked to play with her tee set.</p> | <p>7</p> <p>January is National Book Month.</p> | <p>8</p> <p>Elvis postage stamp issued by the U.S. Postal Service, 1993. Long live the King!</p> | <p>9</p> <p>Jimmy Page, guitarist, born, 1944. Paging Jimmy Page.</p> |
| <p>10</p> <p>Book Learning Fact #2: The best-selling children's story is <i>The Tale of Peter Rabbit</i> by Beatrix Potter.</p> | <p>11</p> <p>Mary J. Blige, singer, born, 1972. Much obliged.</p> | <p>12</p> <p>Book Learning Fact #3: The smallest book ever published is 1/16-inch long by 1/16-inch wide. You need a needle to turn the pages.</p> | <p>13</p> <p>Edgar Allan Poe, author, born, 1809. His parents were raven about him.</p> | <p>14</p> <p>Dave Grohl, lead singer of the Foo Fighters, born, 1969. Babies like him are Foo and far between.</p> | <p>15</p> <p>The Pentagon building is completed, 1943. There are five sides to this story.</p> | <p>16</p> <p>Bald Eagle Appreciation Days begin. Buy a toupee for your bald eagle.</p> |
| <p>17</p> <p>Jim Carrey, actor, born, 1962. Get Carrey'd away.</p> | <p>18</p> <p>A.A. Milne, author of <i>Winnie-the-Pooh</i>, born, 1882. We went from Foo to Pooh.</p> | <p>19</p> <p>MARTIN LUTHER KING JR. DAY</p> | <p>20</p> <p>Book Learning Fact #4: The world's most overdue library book was borrowed in 1667 and returned 288 years later.</p> | <p>21</p>  | <p>22</p> <p>Answer Your Cat's Question Day. What if the question is too purr-plexing?</p> | <p>23</p> <p>Book Learning Fact #5: All books were handwritten until about 1040, when the Chinese invented wood-block printing.</p> |
| <p>24</p> <p>National Book Month ends. That's all they wrote.</p> | <p>25</p> | <p>26</p> | <p>27</p> <p>National Compliment Day. What a nice day!</p> | <p>28</p> <p>Elijah Wood, actor, born, 1981. He made a Deep Impact on his parents.</p> | <p>29</p> <p>Kansas becomes the 34th state, 1861. Wichita way to Kansas?</p> | <p>30</p> |

Real Pass the Puck: Jeremy Roenick

One of the fastest skaters in the National Hockey League, **Jeremy Roenick** plays center for the Phoenix Coyotes. **Andrew Santella** slap-shot him some questions.



When you were little, did you ever play hockey inside the house?

Every day. My younger brother and I would take toilet paper and roll it up with a little tape to make a ball. We had little hockey sticks and we'd play on our hands and knees.

What's the hardest thing for a kid to master in hockey?

Skating. To be a good skater is very hard, and to control the puck while you're skating takes a tremendous amount of coordination and ability.

Do you ever wish you could try another professional sport?

I wish I could kick field goals in the National Football League. I kicked field goals in high school, and I bet I could kick a forty-five-yarder pretty consistently.

Do you collect anything?

I'm into motorcycles. I grew up with motorcycles. My dad and mom used to race Enduros, which are 100- and 125-mile races on dirt

bikes. You go through streets and woods, and then you go through all-terrain. I got into doing that with my mom and dad when I was about eight or nine years old.

Are there any athletes in other sports you like to follow?

I'm a huge Michael Jordan fan—not only because of what he does on the court, but how he is off the court. I play golf with him, and I know him pretty well.

When you and Michael play golf together, who wins?

I'm not going to tell. Let's just say we have some good matches. □




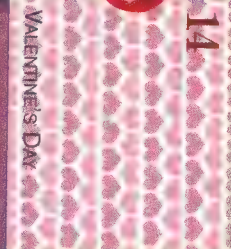



It's your pucky day, Jeremy.

NICKELODEON MAGAZINE JANUARY/FEBRUARY 1999



February

Y Carefully tear out this page along the dotted line. Y

| Sunday | Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursday | Friday | Saturday |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 7 Chris Rock, comedian, born, 1966 Rock-a-bye, baby.  | 1 February is National Cherry Month.  | 2 James Joyce, author, born, 1882 Joyce to the world. GROUNDHOG DAY  | 3  | 4 Natalie Imbruglia, singer, born, 1975 She toots her own horn.  | 5 Moose-Stompers Weekend in Houlton, Maine begins This sounds like a wild moose chase.  | 13  |
| 14 Valentine's Day  | 8 New Cherry Zest #1: There are two kinds of cherries, tart and sweet. Tart ones are used for pies, jellies, and preserves. Sweet ones are usually eaten fresh.  | 10  | 11 Brandy, singer and actress, born, 1979 She was Brandy-new.  | 12 Don't get too sentimental.  | 18 Count Alessandro Volta, inventor of the electric battery, born, 1745 He kept going and going and going...  | 20 New Cherry Zest #2: Most tart cherries in the U.S. come from Michigan. Sweet cherries are grown on the West Coast.  |
| 21 Washington Monument dedicated in Washington, D.C., 1885 It's monument George-ous.  | 15 Canada officially replaces the Union Jack with the red maple leaf flag, 1965 Hit the road, Union Jack. PRESIDENTS' DAY  | 17 Newsweek magazine begins publication, 1933 Just in Time.  | 24 Winslow Homer, American painter, born, 1836 "Honey, I'm Home!"  | 26 New Cherry Zest #4: Tart cherries are shaken off the tree by machine, but sweet cherries are picked by hand to keep their stems.  | 27 Chelsea Clinton, daughter of the President, born, 1980 It was the first daughter's first day.  | 28 National Cherry Month ends Isn't that the pits?  |

OOZE news

NEWS FROM NICKELODEON • JANUARY/FEBRUARY 1999

Figure It Out: Destined for Grapeness

To figure out what it takes to be a contestant on *Figure It Out*, we sent assistant editor **John-Ryan Hevron** to a talent search for the show at the Woodfield Mall near Chicago. As attractive as he looks in his tryout, you should not copy his stunt—at home or anywhere else.

Real



10:27 AM

The first 30 grapes are easy to cram in. I have to slide a couple of them into the recesses of my cheeks with my finger, but there's room for more. After 43, I know I can make it to 50. From the reactions of everyone around me, I'm sure I look like a squirrel with a mouthful of marbles. Even more embarrassing is that I can't swallow—so I wind up drooling all over my shirt and the table. Leigh hands me a paper towel to wipe up the big droplets. I make it to 50 (right) without any major mishaps, not counting the saliva spillage.



to try out, stuffing lots with ease. girl can y who can

10 AM

he line, I fill m and f to Leigh t producer contestants least I ake a fool of f Danny le waiting finish her ar Leigh y are you sing for me

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Desperate to impress Leigh, I pluck 13 more grapes. I hope my cheeks won't burst from the pressure.



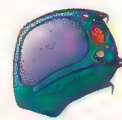
10:35 AM

I already know that I can't be a contestant on the show since I'm older than 16 and I work for NICKELODEON MAGAZINE. But I'm not too disappointed. After all, I've set a new personal grape-stuffing record—and who would have guessed Leigh likes grapes as much as I do!

Turn the page for more
behind-the-scenes information,
and the *Figure It Out* address.



Figure It Out airs weekdays at 6 PM. Show airs one hour earlier in the central time zone. Show time is subject to change. Check local listings for details.



ooze news

10M NICKELODEON • JANUARY/FEBRUARY 1999

IT OR LOSE IT!!

Figure It Out: I for Grapeness

tant on *Figure It Out*, we sent assistant editor **John-Ryan Hevron** to Woodfield Mall near Chicago. As attractive as he looks in his tryout, not copy his stunt—at home or anywhere else.

Reel



10:27 AM

The first 30 grapes are easy to cram in. I have to slide a couple of them into the recesses of my cheeks with my finger, but there's room for more. After 43, I know I can make it to 50. From the reactions of everyone around me, I'm sure I look like a squirrel with a mouthful of marbles. Even more embarrassing is that I can't swallow—so I wind up drooling all over my shirt and the table. Leigh hands me a paper towel to wipe up the big droplets. I make it to 50 (right) without any major mishaps, not counting the saliva spillage.



I need a napkin.

10:15 AM

When I arrive at the mall, there are only five kids waiting to try out. I'm feeling pretty confident, because I practiced my talent (stuffing lots of grapes into my mouth) the night before and fit 30 inside with ease. Still, the other people waiting in line seem so talented. One girl can shake her eyeballs as if they're on springs, and there's a boy who can fold the corners of his ears into themselves.



Here I am signing in.

10:20 AM

At the front of the line, I fill out an entry form and introduce myself to Leigh Field, a segment producer who helps find contestants for the show. At least I don't have to make a fool of myself in front of Danny Tamberelli! While waiting for a shy girl to finish her tryout, I overhear Leigh gently say, "How are you going to sing on TV in front of millions of people if you can't sing for me right here in the mall?" Suddenly, I'm terrified.

10:25 AM

My turn at last! I count 30 grapes out of my bag. I'm about to begin when I hear a girl say her dad can stuff 42 grapes in *his* mouth. Desperate to impress Leigh, I pluck 13 more grapes. I hope my cheeks won't burst from the pressure.



Me, the grapes, and Tiffany Chaddick, another competitor.

10:35 AM

I already know that I can't be a contestant on the show since I'm older than 16 and I work for NICKELODEON MAGAZINE. But I'm not too disappointed. After all, I've set a new personal grape-stuffing record—and who would have guessed Leigh likes grapes as much as I do!



Leigh and I chat over fresh grapes.

Turn the page for more behind-the-scenes information, and the *Figure It Out* address.

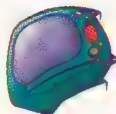


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Drive Your Parents CRAZY

by David Lewman

Tired of being stuck in the backseat? Drive your parents crazy with these lines, and you'll have your hands on the steering wheel in no time.

If I can handle Hot Wheels, I'm ready for this baby.

I'm doing a report on Henry Ford for school, and I get extra credit for driving.

You know, in dog years I'm old enough to get my license.

I've already mastered driving by playing that new video game, *Speed Crash 3000*.

To balance the weight on a car's tires, I've heard that you should rotate drivers and passengers.

Did you know it's National Let Your Kids Drive Week?

The doctor says I'll puke unless I sit right up front on the left side.

It's your choice: my driving all the way home or my whining all the way home.

Someday I'll have to take Driver's Ed, and you know I like to get my homework done in advance.

If you let me drive, you'll get to sit in the back and read comics.



They've got the woof down.

FREAKOSYSTEM Sugar Glider

by Bronwyn Carlton



What is it?

The sugar glider is a small tree-dwelling marsupial*, about seven inches long. Sugar gliders live in the forests of New Guinea and Australia and eat the sweet sap of eucalyptus and acacia trees. These critters can glide through the air from tree to tree, covering up to 160 feet in one jump.

Look, Ma, I'm flying!

The sugar glider has a thin, furry membrane of skin, called the patagium (puh-TAY-jee-um), that stretches between the wrist and ankle on either side of its body. When the animal leaps, the extended membrane works like a parachute and lets the sugar glider swoop between trees (left), steering with its bushy tail.

Look, Ma, I'm landing—OOOF!

The sugar glider's landings are actually high-speed collisions. The glider crashes belly-first into a tree and bounces backwards, grabbing and digging into the tree trunk with its clawed feet to keep from falling.

Animal house

One sugar-glider nest can house as many as 12 gliders. To tell the difference between residents and party crashers, male sugar gliders use their scent glands to mark the other members of the nesting group. Then residents can figure out with a quick sniff who belongs.

It all makes scents

To spread their odor, male sugar gliders have an unusually large number of scent glands—on their butts, chests, and even foreheads.

Yap! Shriek! Pow!

Because they are small and nocturnal (meaning they are most active at night), sugar gliders are heard more than seen. If you stand in an Australian or New Guinean forest at midnight, you might hear the different noises sugar gliders make: a screechy sound like a pencil sharpener as they fight over food, a yapping when they're disturbed, or a soft plopping noise as they land against a tree.

I can make a soft plopping noise, too.

*Marsupials are mammals that spend their early life nurtured in a pouch in their mother's skin.



REVOLTING BUT TRUE FACTS

by Ruth Lindy

RATS HAVE SPREAD ACROSS THE WORLD BY TRAVELING AS STOWAWAYS ON SHIPS.

CUBAN CROCODILES CAN JUMP SEVERAL FEET OUT OF THE WATER AND CATCH BIRDS IN MIDAIR.

SOME SPECIES OF COCKROACHES CAN FLY.

YOUNG DRAGONFLIES LIVE UNDERWATER AND MOVE AROUND BY SHOOTING WATER OUT OF THEIR REAR ENDS.

SLUGS TRAVEL BY GLIDING ON A TRAIL OF THEIR OWN MUCUS.

ANSWERS

Real

Route or Wrong? (pages 36-7):

1-Cary, 2-Ryder, 3-Portia, 4-Minnie, 5-Buster, 6-Tyra.
Van lives too close to school to ride the bus.



Matchmaker (page 40):



Here's the lone chocolate.

What a sweet heart.

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whatever you want

Real

Say What? from the September 1998 issue

Man Staring: Ernest, I told you not to see a shrink. You're fired!
Man in Jar: You're canning me?
Kyle Z., age 11
Jensen Beach, Florida

Man Staring: Jeez! What planet do you come from?
Man in Jar: I come from a planet called Jars.
Anna H., age 11
Wyndmoor, Pennsylvania

Man Staring: What are you doing in my homemade-jelly jar?
Man in Jar: Oh, I find myself in a bit of a jam.
Stephanie and David W., ages 13 and 8
Clinton Corners, New York

Man Staring: What are you doing in that bottle?
Man in Jar: I'm waiting for my ship to come in.
Melissa S., age 9
Myerstown, Pennsylvania

Man Staring: How did you get in there?
Man in Jar: That's classified.
Vanessa S., age 10
Von Army, Texas

Man Staring: What are you doing in that jar?
Man in Jar: Suffocating.
Morgan M. and Breanna B., age 8
Spokane, Washington



Man Staring: What's your problem?
Man in Jar: I have mini problems.
Scott B., age 12
St. Louis, Missouri

These were jarringly funny.

Thanks for all your entries. They were so good that we couldn't put a lid on our laughter.



I'm QZ (that's short for QZXZXZQ), and I'm from the planet Zittlz. I know about everything in the universe and a lot about some other places, too. So ask me a question about anything, and I'll give you cosmic clarification.

Dear QZ:
Is there anything covering the universe?
Lan N.
New York, New York

Lan:
Perhaps you've heard of the Big Blanket Theory?

Dear QZ:
My sisters and I are getting a kitten next week. We already have fish. How should we take care of the kitten?
Megan M.
Richmond, Virginia

Megan:
If I were you, I'd worry about the kitten taking care of the fish.

Dear QZ:
We're having problems with our dog, Rover. He really stinks. What's his problem?
Jason G. and David B.
Lakewood, Colorado

Jason and David:
He has a problem? I hear the whole city of Lakewood is now having problems!

Do you have a question for QZ? Write to:

Ask QZ
NICKELODEON MAGAZINE
1515 Broadway, 40th floor
New York, NY 10036

NICKELODEON MAGAZINE JANUARY/FEBRUARY 1999



Say What?

Give these two something to say.



NAME AGE

STREET ADDRESS

CITY, STATE, AND ZIP CODE

PHONE NUMBER (.....)

Send your finished
Say What? to:

#48 The Plane
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 New York, NY 10036

Deadline: February 23, 1999

Sorry, we can't return your entries, but we will print our favorites in a future issue.



NICKELODEON MAGAZINE JANUARY/FEBRUARY 1999

This issue really
transported me.



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